UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.6
8 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 4. Outer space affairs

1. At its 25th meeting, on 5 June 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 4, Outer space affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Several delegations queried the level of resources proposed for the section and expressed the view that additional information could have been provided with respect to the activities to be carried out and the level of resources proposed since, unlike other sections of the budget, no reductions or efficiency gains were proposed. Other delegations expressed their support for the proposals since the activities were devoted to priority questions of the Organization, as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the programme narrative for the section. Several delegations stressed the important role of the activities in reducing the gap between the rich and the poor, and the technology gap between the developed and developing nations. Some delegations appreciated the work performed so far in that direction.

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3. Some delegations questioned the need for consultations and experts, while others queried the projected decrease in extrabudgetary resources for the programme and how the decrease would affect its capacity to assist developing countries. Some delegations stressed the need to provide more resources for consultants nd experts, especially in such a technical field.

4. Some delegations referred to the establishment and strengthening of regional centres of excellence for promoting cooperation in space technology and its peaceful application.

5. Some delegations questioned the increase of 2.3 per cent in budgetary allocations in the absence of clear objectives. Other delegations emphasized that more resources should be provided for the programmes and activities, which had a great potential for promoting growth and sustainable development.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 4, Outer space affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.